

HOUSE RESOLUTION 39

By Bass

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Henry Hugh Sims.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Henry Hugh Sims; and

WHEREAS, Henry Sims was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sims served with acumen and alacrity as an educator, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Tennessee A and I State College and Fisk University, Henry Sims coached and taught for the Giles County school system; in 1967, he was hired as Assistant Superintendent of the Tennessee Vocational Technical School in Pulaski; he became the first African-American to become an administrator of a technology center in Tennessee when he became the Director of the school in 1982; before he retired in 1998, he had established one of the State's first industrial training programs and acquired a 20,000 square foot addition to the building; and

WHEREAS, a vital member of the African-American community, Henry Sims was the first African-American to be president of the Giles County Chamber of Commerce; he was also the first African-American in numerous other positions, including membership in the Pulaski Electric System Board of Directors, the Pulaski Rotary Club, the board of the First Farmers and Merchants Bank, and the corporate board of the Community Bank in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sims also contributed his time and talents to the Men's Forum, the Pulaski Boys and Girls Club, the Habitat for Humanity Board, the St. John Masonic Lodge #10 F & AM, the NAACP, and the Giles County Retired Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, a consummate builder, Mr. Sims purchased and restored one of the oldest homes in Giles County; he built subdivisions, restored homes, and renovated buildings and in May 2006, he directed and financed the building of a kitchen on St. Paul Aspen Hill AME Church, the first church/school that his students built in 1948; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sims was an active and devout member of Campbell Chapel AME Church, which he served faithfully for over sixty years in numerous capacities including Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sims was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Henry Sims enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife Vivian Battle, to whom he had been married since 1971; he was preceded in death by his college sweetheart and first wife, Martha Nichols; he is further survived by his mother-in-law, Ara Walls; his brother, William Sims; and many nieces and nephews, “foster” children, friends, and thousands of former students throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Henry Hugh Sims leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Henry Hugh Sims, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Sims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.